REMARKS

Claims 21-32 are pending in the above-referenced application. In the Final Office Action, claims 21, 23, 25, 27, 28 and 29 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,652,101. Claims 21-23, 25, and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,808,267 to O'Neil et al. ("O'Neil et al.). Claims 24, 26, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over O'Neil et al.

In response to the double patenting rejection, Applicant submits a terminal disclaimer.

With regard to the prior art rejections, Applicant submits that O'Neil et al. does not constitute prior art to the pending application. O'Neil et al. was filed October 18, 2002, and does not claim priority to any prior-filed application. The pending patent application claims priority as a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/972,044, which was filed on October 9, 2001 and was issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,652,101. Since the instant application claims priority to an application filed more than a year prior to the cited reference, Applicant submits that O'Neil et al. does not apply, and respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

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Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art and are in condition for allowance. If Applicant's representative can be of assistance to the Examiner in placing the pending claims in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is asked to contact the Applicant's representative at (202) 942-8486.

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AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required for entry of this Response, or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 08-0219.

In the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to deposit account no. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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202-942-8400

202-942-8484

MAO/srg

Date